

# **I. Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

Claim 20-21 and 24-26 have been amended as follows:

## **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 20 (currently amended): A coupling device for converting a below ground potable water well installation to an above-ground installation, the device comprising:

a housing having a first end region extending into the upper end of a below-ground well casing and a second end region having an opening which is dimensioned to receive a lower end of a well casing extension;

gasket means located adjacent the first opening end region of the housing which includes a gasket member which extends along and engages the inner surface of the well casing and an exterior flange which extends along and engages the outer surface of the well casing providing a seal against both the inner and outer surfaces of the well casing;

gasket means located adjacent the second opening end region for sealing the respective connections between the housing and the well casing extension; and

a central region including a passage to receive a well line adaptor there between.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A device as defined in claim 20 wherein the gasket means located adjacent the second opening end region includes a passage through the gasket which is aligned with ~~the~~ a passage in the central region of the housing to receive ~~the~~ a well line adaptor.

Claim 22 (previously presented): A device as defined in claim 20 wherein the housing includes a gasket receiving chamber of an increased diameter relative to the diameter of the second opening.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A device as defined in claim 22 wherein the housing is formed from a one piece member.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A device as defined in claim ~~23~~ 22 wherein the ~~housing has an expanded central region with~~ gasket receiving chamber has a diameter sufficient to accommodate the lower end of a well casing extension together with the gasket member ~~between the lower and upper end~~ wherein the upper and lower regions of the gasket receiving chamber include annular surfaces which are separated by a distance sufficient for the gasket sleeve to fit there between.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A device as defined in claim 24 where the ~~upper~~ gasket located adjacent to the first end region of the housing further includes a first inner surface which is radially inwardly tapered from the ~~second opening upper end of the gasket~~ toward the ~~upper seating surface lower end of the gasket~~ and wherein the ~~lower~~ gasket located adjacent to the second end region of the housing further includes an inner surface region which is radially inwardly tapered from the ~~first opening lower end of the gasket~~ towards the ~~lower seating surface upper end of the~~ gasket.

Claim 26 (currently amended): A method for converting a below-ground potable water well installation to an above-ground installation, the below-ground installation being of the type having a well casing with an upper end positioned below the ground surface and located within a well chamber, comprising the steps of:

- a) accessing the well chamber and opening the upper end of the well casing;
- b) accessing a well pump line in the well casing which is connected, by a fluid joint, with a water supply line extending in the pump chamber from a neighbouring water delivery location;
- c) disconnecting the joint and isolating the well pump line;
- d) providing a coupling member, having;

a housing having a first end region extending into the upper end of a below-ground well casing and a second end region having an opening which is dimensioned to receive a lower end of a well casing extension;

gasket means located adjacent the first opening end region of the housing which includes a gasket member which extends along and engages the inner surface of the well casing and an exterior flange which extends along and engages the outer surface of the well casing providing a seal against both the inner and outer surfaces of the well casing;

gasket means located adjacent the second opening end region of the housing for sealing the respective connections between the housing and the well casing extension; and

a central region including a passage to receive a well line adaptor there between.

e) preparing the upper end of the well casing for engagement with the coupling member;

f) orienting the first opening end region of the housing to a position adjacent the upper end of well casing and positioning the housing on the upper end of the well casing to bring the upper end against the first seating surface and a first gasket;

g) installing a pump line adaptor through a passage formed in the coupling member;

h) installing the water supply line to the pump line adaptor;

i) selecting a well casing extension member of a length which, when added to the predetermined spacing between the seating surfaces in the coupling member, will extend above the ground surface;

j) orienting the lower end of the well casing extension adjacent the second end region of the housing and positioning the lower end of the well casing extension in the second end region of the housing to bring the lower end against the second seating surface and lower gasket;

k) filling the well chamber with a suitable filling material around the coupling and well casing extension member; and

l) installing the well pump line to the well line adaptor.

Claim 27 (cancelled).